

Appl. No. 09/992,231
Amtd. dated June 15, 2006
Reply to Office Action of October 7, 2005

Remarks

The present amendment responds to the final Official Action mailed April 19, 2006 and is filed in conjunction with the filing an RCE which will be filed in the near future. The final Official Action rejected claims 11,12, 14 and 23-28 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) based on Chang et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,947,995 (Chang). Claims 13, 16-18, 21, 22, 29 and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Chang in view of Ramachandran et al. U.S. Patent No. 6,457,640 (Ramachandran). Claims 11-14 and 16 have been amended to be more clear and distinct. New claims 31 and 32 dependent from claim 11 have been added. Claims 11-14, 16-18 and 21-32 are presently pending.

The Art Rejections

The Official Action's analysis of Chang and Ramachandran is traversed in its entirety as not supported by those items. As an initial matter, it is noted that the present application has a filing date of November 6, 2001 and claims a foreign priority of November 22, 2000. Chang, on the other hand has a filing date of November 18, 2001. While Chang claims the benefit of a provisional application filed November 20, 2002, the disclosure of the patent varies from that of the provisional and it is only the disclosure of the provisional that is before the present application's priority date. Further, it is not admitted by the applicant that the Chang provisional is in fact prior to the applicant's invention. However, given the distinctions between applicants' invention and the Chang provisional, no effort will be made to antedate this item at this time.

Appl. No. 09/992,231
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Section 102(e) Rejection of Claims 11, 12, 14 and 23-28

These claims were rejected as anticipated by Chang. As noted above, it is only the disclosure of the Chang provisional application and not the application upon which the Chang patent is based which predates applicants' foreign priority date. However, in the interest of responding directly to the points raised by the Examiner, the discussion below refers to the columns and lines of the Chang patent relied upon by the Examiner. As an initial matter, the Examiner relies on Chang col. 1, lines 54-59 and col. 3, lines 30-31 as disclosing "a method of printing tickets at a self-service terminal". These portions of Chang do not disclose "printing tickets" and do not disclose printing tickets at a "self-service terminal". They read in their entirety as follows:

To illustrate, an information worker at an airport receiving Email in his hand-held computer may want to walk up to a nearby printer or fax machine to have his e-mail printed. In addition, the mobile worker may also want to print a copy of his to-do list, appointment book, business card and his flight schedule from his mobile device.
Chang, col. 1, lines 54-49.

Therefore, a more convenient or automated printing and output solution is needed so that a user can simply walk up to an output device (e.g., printer or display device) and easily output a digital document without having to install or pre-install a particular output device driver (e.g., printer driver).
Chang, col. 3, lines 29-34.

The Official Action also cites Chang col. 16, lines 15-20 and col. 18, lines 53-67 with respect to requesting the remote server to print a ticket, transmitting ticket information, and receiving ticket information. There is no "ticket" disclosed at these cited portions of Chang. Chang, col. 16,

Appl. No. 09/992,231
Amdt. dated June 15, 2006
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lines 15-20 addresses "device-specific output data" and "output data". Col. 18, lines 53-67 of Chang address a radio adapter 200 "to enable data/noise transmission among devices" and contains no disclosure of tickets. As such Chang does not and cannot anticipate the claims as formerly presented or as presently amended.

With respect to claim 11 as presently amended, it now addresses a "method of supporting self-service terminal transactions and printing tickets at a self-service terminal" which additionally comprises the step of "receiving authorization for self-service terminal transactions from a transaction host over a secure network connection."

Among the several aspects of their invention, the present inventors realized the desirability of using ATMs and SSTs for other functions in addition to providing financial transactions, but that while an "ATM could be utilized but that while to print tickets, that it is a complex task to route data through an ATM network. In addition, ATM networks are secure private networks, so many financial institutions would be unwilling to grant access to these networks to third party ticket suppliers." Specification, page 1, lines 22-26 and page 2, lines 7-10. In this context in which terminals such as self-service terminals and ATMs, for example, which often have a secure network connection to a transaction host for authorizing transactions as described at page 4, lines 25 and 26, for example, is utilized to print valuable tickets, the approach of Chang appears to be both inappropriate and insufficient. As an example, Chang's information cannot and should not be able to simply walk up to an ATM and print out his email. To sum up, Chang does not anticipate and does not make obvious claim 11 as presently amended.

Appl. No. 09/992,231
Amdt. dated June 15, 2006
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With respect to claim 12, as noted above, Chang does not anticipate and does not make obvious printing tickets by a self-service terminal in the manner claimed by this claim.

With respect to claim 14, the Official Action refers to Chang col. 11, lines 18-34 as addressing "fulfilling an electronic media purchase". This portion of Chang says that while print output is described in detail other outputs such as displays or sounds may be provided. There is no suggestion that a CD of music or software be prepared as described at page 14, lines 15-18, for example, and as presently claimed by claim 14.

The remaining dependent claims rejected based on Chang standing alone address a variety of features which are further patentable over Chang.

Rejection of Claims 13, 16-18,21, 22, 29 and 30

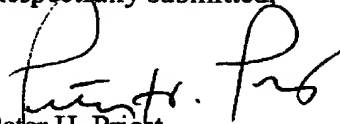
These claims were rejected based upon Chang in view of Ramachandran. Regarding claim 13, the Official Action correctly admits Chang fails to teach a method wherein the self-service terminal is an ATM and "wherein the fixed channel couples to an ATM network, the method further comprising: printing financial information received from the ATM network by the printer module" relying upon Ramachandran and suggesting it would be obvious to combine Ramachandran with Chang to result in the present invention. With respect to claim 13 and the remaining claims rejected as obvious, as noted above, Chang does not teach and does not make obvious ticket printing in the presently claimed context. As such, it provides no basis for modifying Ramachandran which if anything teaches away from the present claims.

Appl. No. 09/992,231
Amdt. dated June 15, 2006
Reply to Office Action of October 7, 2005

Conclusion

All of the presently pending claims, as amended, appearing to define over the applied references, withdrawal of the present rejection and prompt allowance are requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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